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Henry Hastings Hall to W S Hall, 14 December 1859

Woongong Dec^r 14th 1859

My very dear brother,

Your letters come very regularly to hand but I have not had one by this mail, nor am I surprised for I do not expect you to write by every one. At the departure of the Nov^r mail I was away at Gingin with Frank who had a commission from Yelverton & Co to purchase for them £500 worth of steers and he wished me to go with him to draw out the acceptances, this will account for my silence. I have received by this mail a letter and papers from Sarah and a letter from Aunt my sister does not mention you but I take it for granted you are well. I have only heard from Taylor once since I left. It appears there is some fatality attending our affairs at present as, if the cattle could have been brought up two months sooner they would here realized at least £100 more than when they were sold, but they were on the other side of the Blackwood and could not be got over. Frank brought them up and I sold them by auction on the 2^d Nov, twenty nine head of cattle and seven horses netted £246.18. Frank purchased £73 and our brothers were so much in want of the *needful* that I had to distribute £130 to some of the most pressing creditors so that with incidental expenses I have not much in hand, but hope to be able to remit you by the time you wish to come up, one head belonging to Fanny has been lost since I arrived so there were only seven of hers rather a poor lot they realized about £39. Our brothers consider there are about 17 head of our mother's cattle unaccounted for and we know two or three have been seen at the head of the Helena so we hope to get a few more. Booyan died at our place a few days since, there are now very few of the old lot. Ander & Lucy have been away a month at the southward and are not returned it is a bad time for him to be away as the hay and barley have been gathered during his absence, but he was going so as to be back in time but various causes delayed him. They (A & F) had to defend an action for loss of some Pensioners cattle last month it involved an amount of some £200 but they gained the day and the first action settled several others, the plea was negligence. I am in treaty with Henry Sutton for Dedallah and think he will have it old Sutton is dead and has left his son a splendid herd of cattle he is one

of the wealthiest young men in the colony. Tom Peel's place sold at auction to Wellard for £3000. I cannot at present tell you what is likely to be your share from the Estate as of course some of the debts must be paid, and even the expense of our mother's funeral is not paid off yet. But however badly F & A have managed I feel sure they will go on better for the future they both seem determined to get out of debt and to keep so. I am much better pleased with Frank than I was some time ago I had to buy a horse a[t] the sale for my own use, and got *the foal* Penelope *had* when she was poisoned at the Williams, it was sold for a pound or two to our mother. I gave £19.10 for him and he is worth £25. Giblett is talking of going to Augusta. I am going to send Mrs Stewart some red gum by John Spencer's eldest son who is here on a visit from the diggings he is on a store on Friar's Creek. I took Ginjar and a kangaroo dog out on Saturday and brought home two Emus and a Kangaroo, the largest of the former weighed lb 70. Our crops as usual are very poor but then they were in later th[an] ever this year, then to make bad worse we cannot keep the cattle and horses out of the oats in the Island, so much for bad fences, that crop is ruined. I send you and Bracher four papers each. I will write either to George or Sarah next mail. I have to go into Perth tomorrow and to Suttons a few days after. I must contrive to send Cohen something by the Jan^y mail, for he has waited very patiently. Everybody says this place would pay if people gave it a fair chance With kind love to you all

I remain

my dear brother

affectly yours

H H Hall

Dec^r 15

As you anticipated it appears there will be some difficulty about those judgments but I will not render myself liable unless I get an equivalent, they will be set aside in [?1865] but that is a long time to wait I wish you were here but I will act with all the circumspection God and my father have given me some of these judgments are of twenty five years standing. I have been smoking a pipe at Carr's with him and G Leake *two pipes in two years*